



The TURNTABLE

September 2010

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Important Dates To Remember

October 7

Ladies Luncheon
Bart Black Skillet,
Columbia—11:30AM
Call Marge for info:
(209) 533-4595

October 9

Virginia Stamm-
Bispo Celebration of
Life— 4-7PM
Railtown
Call Dottie for more
Info: 533-8483

December 19

Annual Christmas
Party—Mill Villa
Clubhouse

January 22, 2011

Volunteer
Appreciation Dinner
At the Elks Lodge
In Sonora

September Birthdays

3	Charlene McAndrews
13	Danny Taylor
15	Ron White
15	Richard Bradley
17	Bob Ide
18	Tommy Johnson
18	Doris Redfern
19	Tom Keyes
22	Joyce Presley
30	Ron Davilla

GCOR Training Dates Announced

Training for all interested engine crew volunteers occurs on March 19th and 20th, 2011. All volunteers who want to participate on the engine crew must attend and pass the test for the General Code of Operating Rules. This test is held once a year and is mandatory for all new and returning engine crew volunteers. A drug test is also required. Day long classes will be from 8am to 5pm each day. The classroom location and instructors will be announced at a later date.

Caboose Day is September 18th!

The day will start out with breakfast at 8AM at the Tri Dam. Please join us to honor the fine folks who worked for the past four years on the restoration of the caboose! RSVP to Marge Lovingfoss or Dave Rainwater, if you will be attending so we'll be sure to have enough food available. The rest of the day will be filled with celebration as we run the caboose on each run. The normal ticket prices will apply, members ride free, and advanced reservations are strongly recommended! We'll also have entertainment by our locally renowned story teller BZ Smith, and musician Richard 'Tater' Learned who will be on board the trains. The interpretive hand car will be operating from 11-3, and we'll have free balloons and temporary tattoos! On top of all of that, the Foothill Flywheelers, (the engine club), will be displaying and operating their old engines that day. Should be a lot of fun, and a great way to introduce our newly restored caboose to the world!



Niles Canyon Volunteer Field Trip Planned

All Railtown volunteers are invited to join our newest and exciting field trip to the Pacific Locomotive's Association's Niles Canyon Railway. Each year we go on two field trips to interesting places, mostly suggested by our volunteers. Our last field trip in May to the Western Railway Museum near Rio Vista was a great success. Our next trip will be to the Niles Canyon Railway and will occur later this month. (We are still waiting for a firm date) Our trip will include a train excursion ride through the Niles Canyon, and a tour of their shops and rolling stock. The Niles Canyon Railway is very historic, dating back to 1862, The Western Pacific Railroad Company and the Central Pacific Railroad. The day will also include a tour of their historic rolling stock. Call Dave to reserve your place in this exciting new field trip. 209-984-4408



News Items

A Celebration of Life

for Virginia Stamm-Bispo will be held at Railtown, October 9th from 4PM to 7PM. All volunteers are invited. This will be a potluck BBQ. Come and share and celebrate the memory of a good friend. Call Dottie for more information.

The Pumpkin Brigade

'Volunteers Needed for this years PUMPKIN BRIGADE. Each year a team of volunteers assemble in 3 or 4 pick up trucks, and head off to the pumpkin farm in Manteca. They generously allow us to gather as many pumpkins as we need from their gleaned fields, in order to provide pumpkins for our guests during the Harvest Haunt trains in October. We will be gathering the pumpkins Tuesday, October 12th (tentative date). Call Dave or Laverne in the office if you'd like to help. It's a lot of fun and it's very rewarding to see the smiles on the kids faces as they pick their Halloween pumpkin!

Wanted!

Is there any volunteer who could loan us the use of a BBQ, for special days when our ladies in the kitchen car need to barbecue for Tuesdays? We would only need to borrow the use of the BBQ two or three times a year.

Santa's Starlight Express

Mark your calendars for this years 'Starlight Express' trains. Because of the enormous interest last year, we've added more trains. There will be two trains each evening, Friday, November 26th and Saturday, November 27th.

Christmas Boutique To Be Held In October

This year's Christmas Boutique will be open to the public starting with the 2nd weekend in October. The dates are October 9th & 10th, the 16th & 17th, the 23rd & 24th and the 30th and 31st. Donations of saleable craft items are sought, and all proceeds are donated to our California State Museum Railroad Foundation. If you have a craft item or would like to see how you can participate, call Natalie Stier at 209-586-6367.

Volunteer Hours Sign In Sheets

When signing your hours of service, please be sure to sign out and note the category (i.e. Car Host, Greeter, Tour Guide, Brakeman, Engineer, etc.)

Volunteer of the Month— Marty Gerbasi

This month we'd like to give a special thanks to Marty Gerbasi as our volunteer of the month. Marty retired after 33 years as a 'spacecraft engineer' with the Lockheed Space and Missile Company. Growing up in Niagara Falls, New York, he always loved hearing the steam trains coming through, and enjoyed his own Lionel train set from 1942. He worked in the family grocery business and then attended Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana where he earned a Bachelor's degree in engineering. Winters are cold in Niagara Falls with the 'lake effect' snows. So, he moved out to the California sunshine in 1961 to Sunnyvale. After retiring, he and his wife Beverly moved to Tuolumne County in 1996. Jerry Lewis introduced him to Railtown and he began volunteering as a Car Host in 2005. Soon his love for woodworking and his skills were noticed and he has been a faithful volunteer on Tuesdays. For the last four years Marty played an integral role along with lead carpenter Gary Hosman in restoring the #7 Caboose, which we are officially celebrating on September 18th with our 'Caboose Day'. Activities outside of Railtown include: a longtime membership in the Thunderbird Club of Santa Clara Valley, instructing for AARP's driver safety program, and also actively volunteering for the Sierra Repertory Theatre. Asked what he enjoys most about Railtown he says, "I enjoy the maintenance and restoration work on Tuesdays and have a great time, but I enjoy the people the best!"



Volunteerism At Railtown Is Up

Our volunteer hours logged each month is at an all time high, indicating a true and keen community interest in keeping our State Park functioning. By the end of August in 2009, we had logged in 16,470 hours. This year at the end of August, 2010 we noted 19,774 hours indicating a 20% increase over last year. In fact, looking at past hours, there has been a steady increase by 20% each year. Last year we had a volunteer roll of about 130, out of which 104 were active. This year we have a volunteer base of 160, out of which 135 are actively volunteering. *'The California Department of Parks and Recreation recognizes and appreciates the fact that volunteers are integral to the overall operation of our parks. Volunteers often bring expertise that is not otherwise available, and their efforts add to and enrich the visitor's experience.'* This is very true of all our Railtown volunteers and to that we say THANK YOU !

From of Kilgore, Ireland

I recently visited your excellent facility at Jamestown, I wish to express my profound thanks to all your staff and also the excellent show of old steam trains displayed there. I travelled from Ireland to see the site and was amazed to see such a collection in pristine condition. Many thanks again and keep up the good work.....Yours thankfully, Joseph



RAILTOWN 1897
State Historic Park

PO Box 1250

Jamestown, CA 95327

Return Service Requested



TO:

Depot Store- (209) 984-3953

Docent Hotline- (209) 984-4408

Docent Site- <http://Railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers/default.aspx>

Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

Newsletter submissions: RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov

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Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	dtaylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Park Aid & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	darainwater@parks.ca.gov
Lisa Smithson , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-8719	lsmithson@parks.ca.gov
Ron White , Crew Caller Car Hosts	551-7087	rbarryw@att.net
Dave Tadlock , Crew Caller, Covered Service Employees	383-1353	1oldmotorman@comcast.net
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Crew Caboose	984-0352	

Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request